

Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 28, 2004, and made final, and the advisory action mailed March 4, 2005 have been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, and 2 stand rejected. Claims 3-9 are objected to. Claims 10-20 have been indicated to be allowable.

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Rinehart for the courtesies extended in a telephonic interview on March 28, 2005 in which the Sakane reference was discussed with regard to Figures 3 and 5. No agreement was reached. The Examiner confirmed that Claims 10-20 are now allowed. A subsequent interview was held on April 5, 2005 wherein the Sakane reference was further discussed and amendments proposed by the undersigned. Again, no agreement was reached.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sakane (U.S. Patent No. 5,335,524) is respectfully traversed.

Sakane describes a drum type washing machine including an outer basket (1), a tub (2), held by a suspension mechanism (3), and a drum (4) mounted on a support shaft (5). An electric motor (9) is mounted on the outer bottom of the tub. A transmission mechanism (14) is provided between the shaft and the motor. A control device (27) includes a microcomputer having a storage for storing an operation program for controlling a washing operation including a wash step, an intermediate dehydration step, a rinse step and a final dehydration step. The drum 4 is rotated in a predetermined rotational speed pattern in the wash step. The operation program contains data of rotational speed reference signal (S_n) corresponding to drive patterns, including patterns of rotational speed variations of the drum in the wash step shown in Fig. 3. The drum is

forward rotated for a time period (T_a) interrupted for a time period (T_b) and reverse rotated for a time (T_a) repeatedly. The rotational speed of the drum is varied so as to be linearly increased from the value n_a to the value n_b (col. 4, lines 40-52). The motor is feedback controlled so as to be driven to be rotated at the rotational speeds according to the rotational speed reference signal (S_n). The rotational speed of the drum is varied in each period of rotation in the wash step as shown in FIG. 3 (col. 5, lines 24-28).

Claim 1 recites a method for extracting water from laundry articles between a wash cycle and a rinse cycle, the method including performing a spin cycle between the wash cycle and the rinse cycle, the spin cycle including “a first initial spin extracting water from the laundry articles; a first rest period after said first initial spin; and a spin subsequent said first rest period extracting additional water from the laundry articles, said spin subsequent said first rest period commencing immediately after said first rest period, said spin subsequent said first rest period comprising a spin lasting until a start of the rinse cycle”.

Sakane does not describe or suggest a method for extracting water from laundry articles between a wash cycle and a rinse cycle, as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Sakane does not describe or suggest a spin subsequent the first rest period commencing immediately after the first rest period, and lasting until a start of the rinse cycle. Moreover, Sakane does not describe or suggest spinning or rotating a drum to extract water from the laundry. Rather, Sakane describes a drum that is forward rotated for a time period T_a , interrupted for a time period T_b , and reverse rotated for a time T_a repeatedly while the speed of the drum is varied from n_a to n_b , all in a wash step, which is not part of the spin cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Sakane.

Claim 2 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 2 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 2 likewise is patentable over Sakane.

Claims 10 and 11 were indicated as being allowable in the Advisory Action mailed March 4, 2005. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 10 and 11 be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 10-11 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakane is respectfully traversed. Claims 12-20 were indicated as being allowable in the Advisory Action mailed March 4, 2005. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 12-20 be withdrawn.

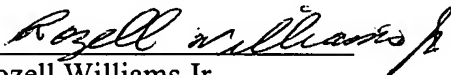
The objection to Claims 3-9 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent Claims 3-9. Applicants submit, however, that Claims 3-9 depend from Claim 1 which is submitted to be patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth above, and that Claims 3-9 are likewise patentable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 3-9 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,


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